

Hampton Woodshed
535 Hampton Lane
East of Hampton Mansion
Hampton National Historic Site
Towson
Baltimore County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-226-S

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MD-226-S

HAMPTON WOODSHED

Location: 535 Hampton Lane, east of Hampton Mansion,
Hampton National Historic Site, Towson,
Baltimore County, Maryland

Present Owner: U. S. Department of the Interior, National
Park Service

Present Use: Storage

Statement of
Significance: This small structure, together with its two
flanking utility buildings, typifies the ar-
chitectural sophistication of the early
Hampton outbuildings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The tract of land on which the Woodshed was built was acquired in 1745 by Colonel Charles Ridgely from Clement and Ann Hill. The 1500 acre tract, "Northampton," had been inherited by Ann Hill from her father, Henry Darnall, who had patented it in 1695. Captain Charles Ridgely, Colonel Ridgely's son, inherited the property in 1772 after his father's death. Captain Ridgely, for whom Hampton Mansion was built, died in 1790. In accordance with his will, nephew Charles Carnan assumed title to much of the estate and the Ridgely name. On January, 17, 1791, widow Rebecca Ridgely signed an agreement with Charles Carnan Ridgely to exchange a tract of land and a house for her rights, claims and interest to Hampton. The estate was inherited by Charles Carnan Ridgely's second son, John, in 1829, as his first son, Charles, had died in 1819. After John's death in 1867, the estate was inherited by his son, Charles, who bequeathed it to his son, John, in 1872. The estate was left to John Ridgely, Jr. in 1938, who sold the mansion to the Avalon Foundation in 1946. The foundation subsequently transferred it to the National Park Service in 1948 under the condition that the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities would maintain the estate after it was restored by the Park Service.

2. Date of erection: Circa 1800
 3. Architect: Unknown
 4. Construction information: It is assumed that the structure was built as a woodshed.
 5. Alterations and additions: Prior to the restoration of the exterior by the National Park Service in 1968, the west elevation had been entirely rebuilt with the installation of a door and a window. The original clapboarding had been patched and the interior had been sheathed with modern siding.
 6. Important old views: The Woodshed, though not named, is located on the 1843 plat of the estate. Prerestoration photographs are in the report cited in Section C.
- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:
See the historical data for Hampton Mansion (HABS No. MD-226-A).
- C. Sources of information:
1. Primary and unpublished sources: The Ridgely family papers are indexed by Avril J. M. Pedley in The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1968. Contained are eight collection numbers which list eighty-seven volumes and approximately thirty-five boxes of loose material.
- Within the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Division of History files is Norman M. Souder's "Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural Data Section, Restoration of Three Outbuildings, Hampton National Historic Site," 1966. The report contains measured drawings and photographs.
2. Secondary and published sources: None known

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This small, one-story structure with a pyramidal roof, has a central semi-elliptical

arched doorway at the west elevation. There are no windows, though there are original dovecote holes.

2. Condition of the fabric: The structure is in excellent condition following the restoration of 1968.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 16'-10" at the west (front) elevation, the building is 13'-6" in depth.
2. Foundations: The rubble limestone masonry foundation, which had largely deteriorated, was restored in 1968.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The wood frame structure is sheathed in random width, beaded clapboarding applied with wrought iron nails. The clapboarding and trim are painted a pale buff-pink. The corner boards on the east elevation are extended to receive the north and south clapboarding.
4. Structural system: The Woodshed is a post and beam structure with mortise and tenon and pegged joints. Short diagonal ceiling joists are set at each corner to support the hip rafters of the roof.
5. Porches: None
6. Chimneys: None
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The west elevation doorway has a three-centered or semi-elliptical archway 8'-0" wide and has plain board trim which is set with impost blocks. The opening, which extends to grade, is hung with a pair of square headed doors fabricated from spaced 1 x 3 slats nailed to battens.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There are no windows, though six 3½" diameter holes are equally spaced in the second to the top clapboard of the south elevation. Three similar holes are located on the east elevation near the south corner in the fourth from the top clapboard. The openings were apparently for a dovecote.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape and covering: The pyramidal roof is covered with cedar shingles which are applied in a swirled manner at the hip ridges. The apex of the roof has a wood finial restoration.
- b. Cornice and eaves: A simple boxed eave has a cyma recta crown moulding restoration and an ovolo bed moulding. The original crown moulding has been replaced by a beveled board prior to 1968.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The structure has a single space.
 2. Stairways: None
 3. Flooring: Concrete
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Prior to the 1968 restoration the interior walls were sheathed with modern scrap lumber applied horizontally. The condition of the framing indicated that the interior had not been originally finished.
 5. Doorways and doors: None
 6. Special decorative features: None
 7. Hardware: Modern reproduction hardware was used on the entrance doorway.
 8. Mechanical equipment: None
- D. Site and Surroundings: The Woodshed is the central structure of a group of three outbuildings east of Hampton Mansion, across from the brick paved kitchen courtyard. The three structures, which face the east elevation of the mansion, delineate a formal composition with two lower structures flanking the higher Woodshed.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was initially financed with funds from the "Mission 66" Program of the National Park Service under the direction of Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures. Hampton

Mansion was measured in 1958 by Student Assistant Architects Orville W. Carroll (University of Oregon), Harold A. Nelson (University of Michigan), and Trevor Nelson (M.I.T.), with Professor Lee H. Nelson (University of Illinois) as Project Supervisor. The complex was measured and drawn in 1959 by Student Assistant Architects Charles C. Boldrick (University of Notre Dame), Richard C. Mehring (University of Virginia) and Herbert L. Banks (University of Florida), with Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) as Project Supervisor.

The project was edited in 1972-73 by Rodd L. Wheaton, Architect, Historic American Buildings Survey, who prepared the historical data, edited and expanded the 1959 architectural data and recorded several structures which were previously unrecorded.